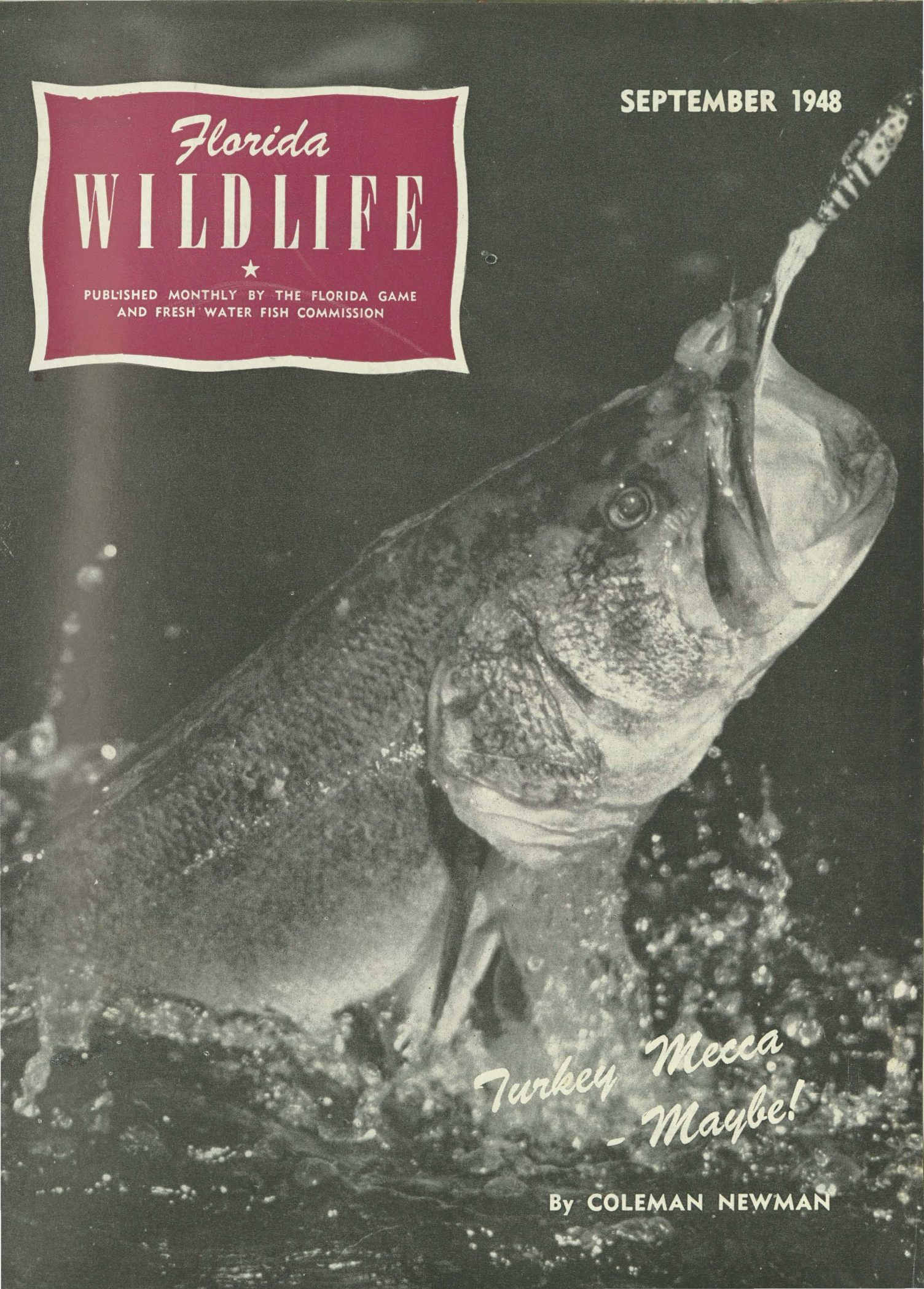


SEPTEMBER 1948

Florida
WILDLIFE

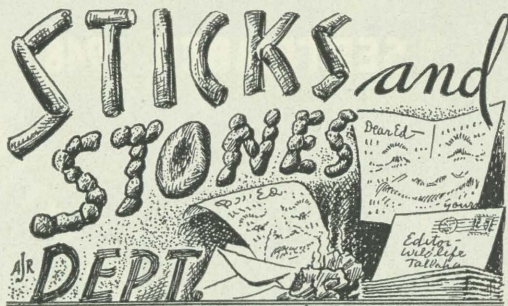


PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE FLORIDA GAME
AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION



*Turkey Mecca
- Maybe!*

By COLEMAN NEWMAN



VOL. 2, NO. 4

Florida
WILDLIFE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE FLORIDA GAME
AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER, 1948

For the
Conservation, Restoration, Protection,
of Our Game and Fish

PRaises Wildlife Officer

Dear Sir:

I am moved to write you concerning an incident, or, rather an act of mercy which I think is characteristic of many of the present wildlife officers in Florida.

On July 24th, Alton Ford—Pine Island Ranch, near Arcadia reported that he had seen a man asleep on the vast prairie east of this city. Members of the sheriff's force and city police began a search. Darkness and a chilling downpour forced the searchers to turn back, and it was decided to wait until the next day to resume the hunt.

The description of the man tallied with that of a patient who had escaped from a branch of the State Insane Asylum three weeks before.

Wildlife Officer John N. Hardin of Arcadia, knowing the wide prairie, knew that water was already several inches deep, and that the heavy rainfall might cause the man to drown if he was unable to get up. Hardin offered his services, his jeep and bloodhound to go after the man, and after talking it over with Arcadia Police Chief Lloyd Holton, they headed into the darkness with Marvin H. Sears and Alton Ford.

When found, the man was too weak to speak above a whisper. His weight was estimated at 70 pounds. On arrival at the hospital, the man was given immediate medical aid, and it was stated that he could not have lived more than a few more hours on the prairie in his condition.

Our wildlife officers are to be counted on as an ever-present help in time of trouble. They are always ready to render any protection for our safe being, and will go out of their way to extend small courtesies to the man in the field. Cooperate with him to conserve our game supply. It is for our own benefit. I am proud to call the wildlife officers in this 1st District my friends.

MARVIN H. SEARS,
Arcadia.

The Cover

This big Okeechobee
bass bit off more than
he could chew. — Photo
by Charles H. Anderson.

Published monthly by the
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Tallahassee, Florida

In This Issue:

Armistice in the Cow Country	by Bill Snyder	3
The Tsala Apopka Chain	by Charles H. Anderson	4
Turkey Mecca—Maybe	by Coleman Newman	6
There's Wealth in Worms	by Ed C. Buckow	8
Alligators DO Attack	by William Carle	10
Camp on Wheels	by Nicholas Curtis	11

DEPARTMENTS

STICKS AND STONES	2	THEY'RE BITING HERE	17
FEDERATION PAGE	12	JUD WITHERSPOON	19
SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS	15	DING DARLING CARTOON	23

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Editorial contributions are welcomed, and all photographs will be returned after use. Manuscripts, news notes, and photographs should be addressed to Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla. Any changes of address should be reported promptly.

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For years the game-rich
rangelands of South Florida
have been virtually locked-
and-barred to hunters.

This year it may be
different—thanks to
the Webb Plan.



Armistice IN THE COW COUNTRY

A game commissioner who dreamed up a plan and then backed it up with his natural flair for salesmanship apparently has produced a master key that is slowly unlocking the gate to millions of acres of practically virgin hunting grounds in Florida's First Conservation District.

The feudin' and the fightin'; the inability of sportsmen and cattlemen to talk the same language; the ill-feeling that existed between the two groups until it became a tradition—all are gradually being erased by the launching of a "get-together" plan that was the pet dream of Cecil M. Webb, Tampa, long before he was appointed the game commissioner of his district.

Wherever the Webb Plan has been presented, the two groups smoke the pipe of peace and work out a "horse-trading" deal. As a result, scores of cattlemen who control big chunks of the district's untold millions of acres of closed rangeland are agreeing to trade "special-permit" hunting rights to high-type sportsmen. In return they receive the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's pledge to assist in ridding the ranches of cattle rustlers, unethical hunters, fence cutters, fire hunters, and members of the hoodlum element that have antagonized cattle ranchers ever since the industry was launched in Florida.

Though still surrounded by NO HUNTING signs, many acres of brand-new hunting grounds are being offered by scores of veteran cattlemen after they study Webb's well-rounded plan, based on

"common horse sense" and a "give and take" attitude.

For many years ranchers and sportsmen have been at logger-heads in the First District, and the situation made the presentation of the Webb Plan doubly difficult. He knew its success would have to depend upon a well-formulated salesmanship campaign. However, this was an easy hurdle for a man whose promotion and sales ability ideas had put him at the head of a million dollar food corporation while still in his thirties.

Selling cattle ranchers the idea of providing sportsmen with new hunting grounds, Webb reasoned, was no different than selling thousand dollar orders of grits, water ground meal or black-eyed peas! He outlined his plan to Director Ben C. Morgan; the latter, who has made the acquisition of public hunting grounds his number one project, was enthusiastic. He explained it to commissioners in the other four districts; they gave it their blessing. Webb was then ready to start. First of all he started building his "sales organization" from the ranks of his wildlife officer law enforcement group.

The first "salesman" he selected was his chief wildlife officer, Ed Albritton, who had virtually "slept" with cattle during a long and colorful law enforcement career that dated back to the early 1920's. In addition, Albritton's records disclosed that he was a member of both the State Cattlemen's Association and the Hillsborough County Association.

by **BILL SNYDER**

(Continued on Page 14)



The TSALA APOPKA CHAIN

By CHARLES H. ANDERSON

IT doesn't make a great deal of difference how you try to pronounce the name. Some of the old timers sort of say, "Chala Apopka." Others tell you that it is "Sala Apopka," and still others just try to sneeze out the 't' sound. But any way you might end up trying to say Tsala Apopka, a sports fisherman will know you are talking about central Florida's 120 square miles of prime, large mouth bass fishing grounds.

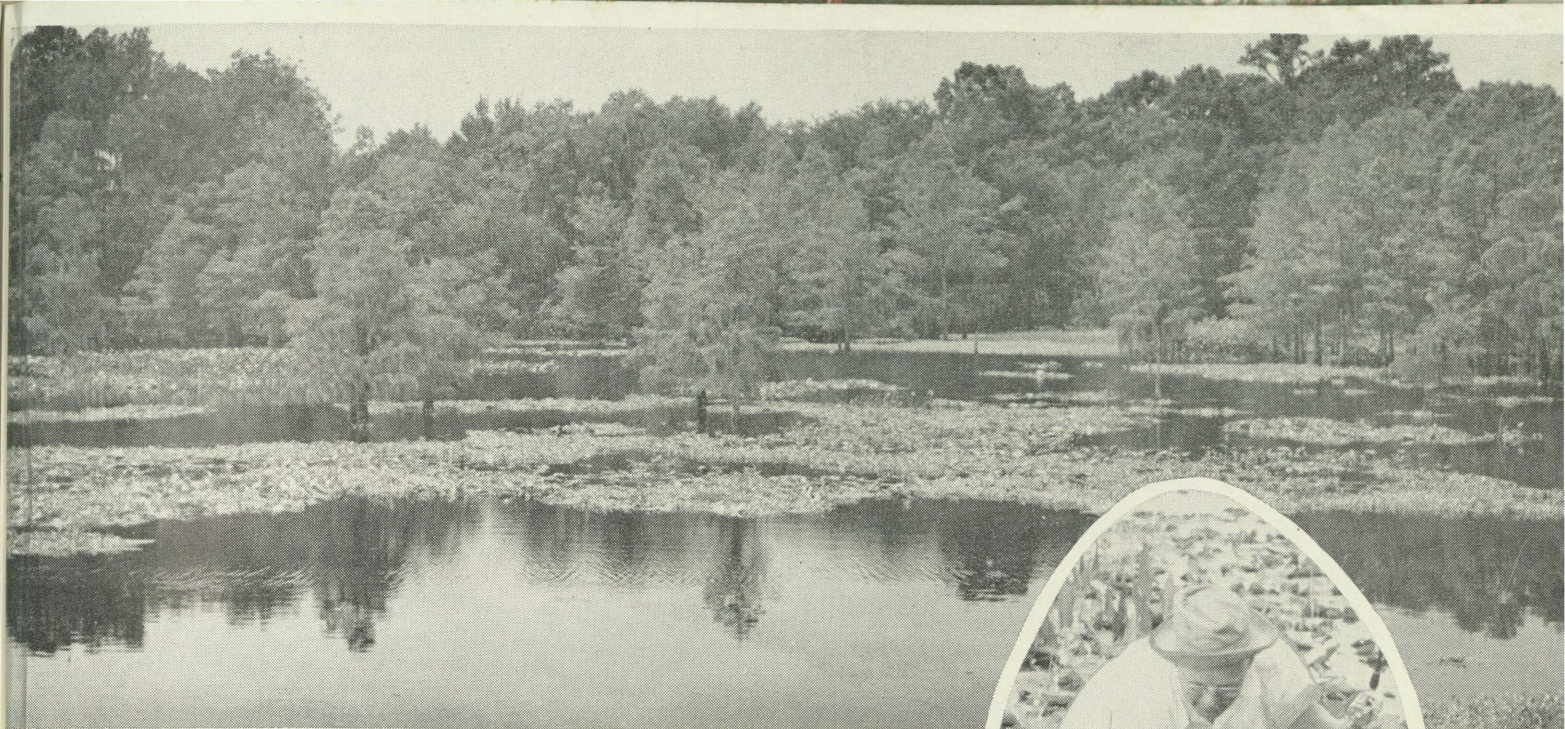
Tsala Apopka, a Seminole phrase meaning "a place where trout are eaten" is a chain of uncounted lakes, pools and ponds that follow the general course of the west bank of the Withlacoochee river for twenty miles through the heart of Citrus county. It is a mass of hundreds of bonnett covered lakes that have produced more near-world-record fish than any other body of water in the state. It is here that a real sportsman with a little more than average push can realize the dream of all anglers to fish a lake that has never been disturbed by the whir-r-r of a spinning reel or the splash of an artificial lure; because natives claim the chain contains lakes unfished by any white man! It is here that you don't stick your chest out quite so far when you come back with a seven or eight pound black beauty. That is just a little better than average. It is here that the angler gives thanks to nature for real recreation.

Ranging in size from small ponds of a few acres to lakes of several square miles, Tsala Apopka gives the angler his choice of almost any type of fishing. Wading the shore line to cast a favorite lure out among the bonnetts or just lazily drifting in a boat dangling a live shiner from the end of a cane pole. Either method is sure to bring rich rewards.

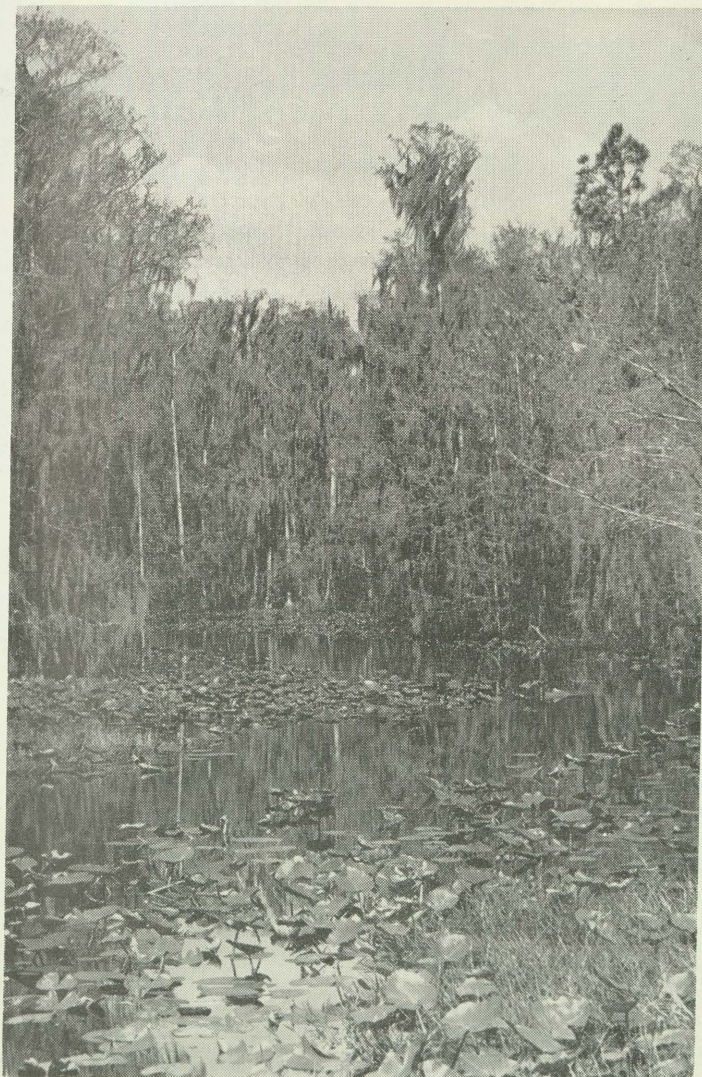
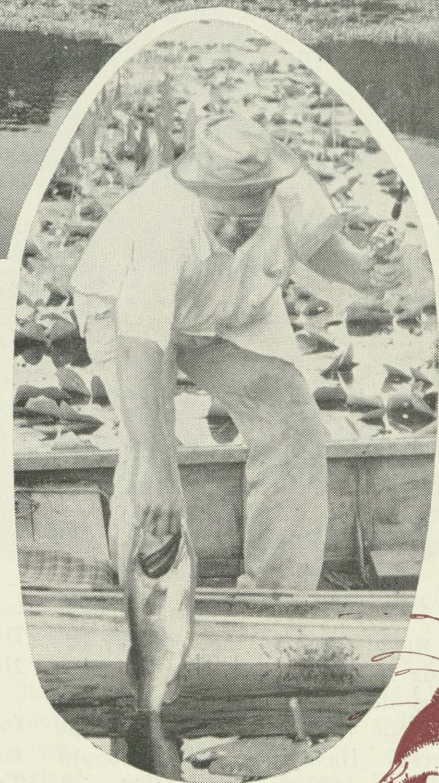
There are perhaps many favorite artificial lures used with good results on this famous fishing ground. But year in and out the all-time favorite of the local fish-catching fishermen is the live native shiner. Taken in the "backwater" sectors of the lower

(Continued on Page 22)

This is the second in a series on famous Florida fishing grounds. Tsala Apopka, in the heart of Citrus County, has been called the most productive area of fishing water in Florida.



Some of the biggest bass on record have been hooked in the bonnet-covered coves of Tsala Apopka. Right, an angler pulls in a prize specimen.



One of the hundreds of half-hidden waterways connecting the chain.



Two anglers display the results of an hour's angling in one of the more accessible Tsala Apopka lakes. The string weighed 23 pounds.



TURKEY MECCA

- Maybe!

By
COLEMAN NEWMAN

HAVE you ever thought what it would mean to the economy of Florida if her citizens should awaken one day to find they were living in the wild turkey mecca of the universe? Have you ever thought what it would mean if Florida became to the turkey hunter what the Dakotas used to be to the pheasant hunter? If you haven't, give it some thought, because neither situation is beyond the realm of possibility. Don't laugh Mr. Turkey Hunter! I'm not kidding! If the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's present program of wild turkey management is fully supported, and enlarged upon I predict that Florida eventually may become America's gobbler capital.

This is no idle boast. It is backed up by the fact that Florida actually possesses a bigger and better potential turkey-raising range than any other state in the Union. Few people realize that Florida actually contains 34,375 square miles of forest. This figure becomes more impressive when it is realized that it adds up to the combined square miles of land area

covered by the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island!

Out of Florida's 22,000,000-acre forest, about 8,000,000 acres can be made into top-flight turkey range. Today Texas is probably the No. 1 turkey-hunting state, and Florida,

without half trying, is close behind it. Once we take full advantage of our God-given gobbler habitat there's nothing in the world to keep us from leaving even Texas far behind.

Although Florida's wild turkeys have been sustained on a more or less "Orphan Annie" basis in the past,

Turkeys thrive best in mast-producing timberland. The author estimates Florida has some 8,000,000 acres of this type terrain.



With proper management Florida could become the wild turkey capital of the universe, says this game expert.

they have shown an astounding increase since 1935. Ordinarily, we estimate the annual hunting kill at approximately 20 per cent of the total flock. Figured on this basis, Florida has enjoyed a 300 per cent turkey increase since the 1935-36 hunting season when 2,847 were killed. Records reveal that 4,108 were killed during the 1945-46 season, and in 1946-47 the number jumped to 6,583. This year I estimate the "crop" at around 35,000. Reverting to our estimated annual kill of 20 per cent, Florida's turkey hunters during the coming shooting season should account for 7,000 birds—a number that isn't exactly peanuts in any man's language.

WITH careful supervision I am confident that the state's stock of gobblers and hens could be elevated to 150,000 during the next 15 to 20 years through the efficient utilization of our available forest range. Once this figure is reached hunters could safely kill 30,000 birds annually without endangering the necessary productivity to keep Florida in first place as the nation's gobbler capital.

I estimate that we can eventually attain our objective of 150,000 tur-

keys if we transfer 300 birds for breeding stock annually for the next eight years. Of course, this means placing them on areas of excellent habitat and seeing that they receive the best of known management practices.

As a matter of fact, the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission this year plans to launch a trapping and transferral plan that would move at least 150 birds from a certain 45,000-acre breeding ground that has consistently remained closed to hunting. The right to trap breeding stock from that particular area was offered recently by the owner of the private acreage. Then too, we anticipate trapping an additional 100 birds this year from state-owned swamplands in Jackson county that eventually will be flooded by the Jim Woodruff dam, now under construction at Chatahoochee. All of these trapped birds will be released on portions of the 8,000,000 acres of available woodland turkey feeding grounds that I previously mentioned.

Before the turkeys are moved to their new locations, we will prepare for them by planting a future source of proper food supplies, and, in addition, create short grass areas that are a sure-fire attraction for the gobbler family. We already have some breeding stock on the Commission's 50,000-acre preserve in Palm Beach county. However, we plan to release additional turkeys there this year and, after approximately five years,

this preserve will be opened to controlled hunting. It should provide some of the state's finest shooting.

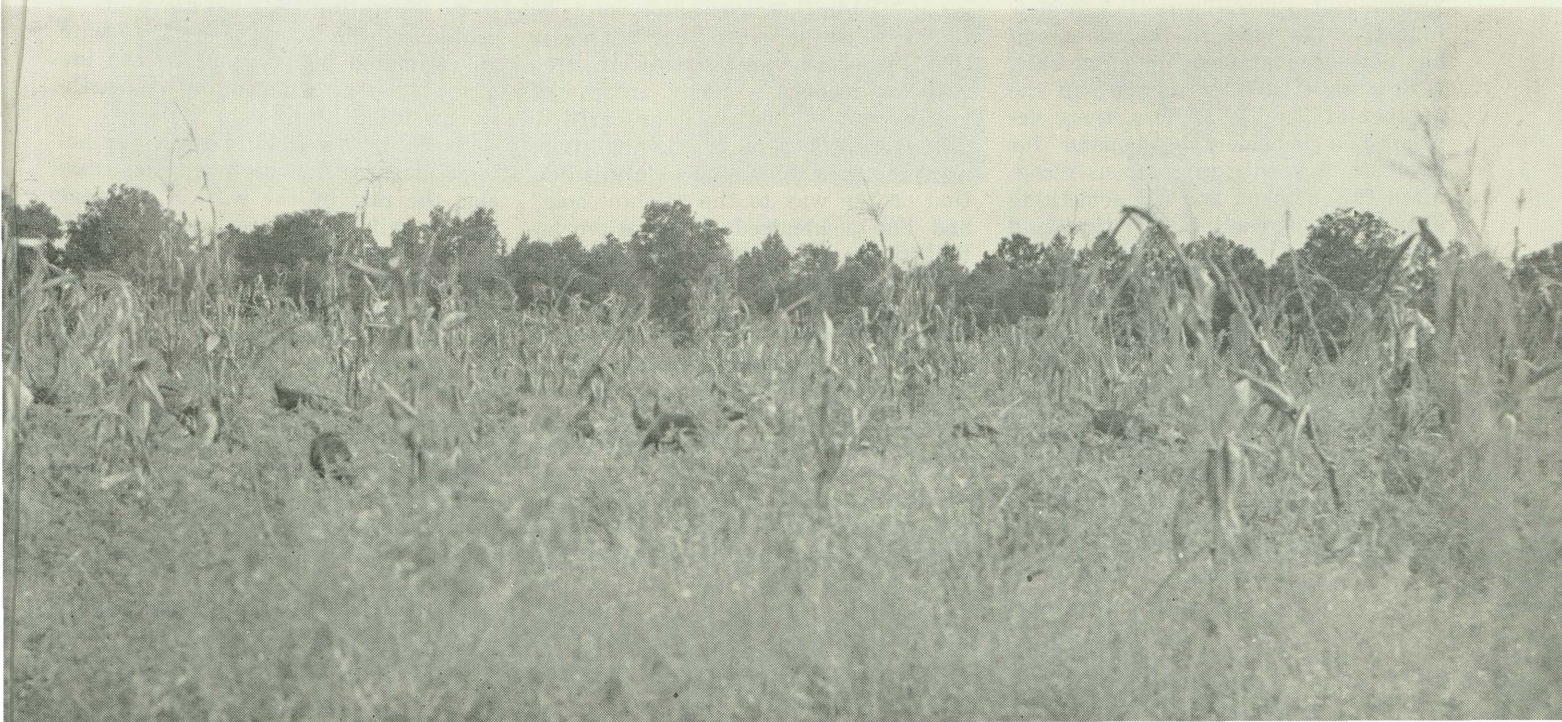
Adequate food supplies are definitely necessary if we can hope to make Florida the top-most turkey hunting state. When left strictly on his own, a turkey finds his food supply in swamp or hardwood forests in the fall and winter. When spring comes, they generally move into the uplands and open fields surrounding the forests. Generally speaking, their fall foods include masts from the hardwoods, and during the spring and summer they live on green vegetation, insects, berries and grass seeds. Careful food analysis has proven that for a 12-month period nearly 50 per cent of a turkey's diet is insects.

FOOD plantings will play an important part in the Commission's turkey restoration program. Small plots of oats and other greens will be used for winter plantings. In addition, chuffas and corn will appear high on the gobbler menu card since they provide high quality food over long periods of time.


There are at least two lines of thought on the types of turkeys to be used in a restocking program. Domestic turkeys have been used in numerous cases, but it is frankly admitted that domestic stock when mixed with wild blood can serve a useful purpose only under certain given conditions. For instance, if a private hunting club wishes to mix

(Continued on Page 19)

Where natural foods are scarce, turkeys go for corn, chuffas and other cultivated grains. Here a flock goes to town in a North Florida corn field.



THERE'S WEALTH IN WORMS



WORMS
THAT REALY WIGGLE

Calhoun County has dug into its good earth to turn up a new five-figure industry—fishing worms. Worm brokers in this bream-fishing land are coining up to \$6,000 a year in their new enterprise.

by

ED. C. BUCKOW

Some worm brokers have a flair for promotion, as this roadsign indicates.

DURING the last few years, while Florida was progressing in leaps and bounds to the rank of the "Fishingest Place There Is," a new industry was born in the state and has developed at an astounding rate.

Because of a huge increase in the number of Florida anglers, there developed a considerable demand for live bait. A good many persons recognized this demand and did something about it. The result is that the "bait business" has turned into a promising and lucrative enterprise.

Earthworms in particular have turned into a big business. To hundreds of families in North Florida, these earth-dwelling creatures constitute the sole source of income. A few enterprising individuals have actually made thousands of dollars "raising" earthworms in their back yards.

One good reason why there is such a ready market for fish worms is the

fact that it is impossible for a great many anglers to dig their own bait. Due to the nature of Florida's soils, good "fishin'" worms just can't be found everywhere. Another reason is that fishermen are getting in step with our modern economy. Instead of getting out of bed an hour early to dig worms before a fishing trip, many of them now stop at a gas station on the way to the "fishin' hole" and buy a hundred or more worms that are already packaged in cardboard containers.

There are two main methods used in getting worms from the soil to the angler. Both methods involve a lot of work. Probably the oldest and most widespread manner of getting worms for commercial use is call "grunting."

To get some first hand "dope" on "grunting" the writer and Photographer Charles Anderson were taken by Wildlife Officer Joe Dykes and

Emitt Reeder to a field about five miles west of Blountstown, Fla., where a large crew of "grunters" were operating. Blountstown is a center of the worm industry, with an estimated 500 persons in the immediate vicinity depending on earthworms for a livelihood.

Reaching the field, we left our automobile near the highway and traveled the rest of the way in the rear of the wildlife officer's jeep. After bouncing for a mile through a mud-hole road, we came to a stop near the crew of "grunters."

Emerging from the jeep, we stood in awed silence. No more than two hundred feet from where we stood, about 18 children of all ages were bending over the ground and scurrying in all directions. Accompanying all this activity were noises that you would expect to hear only at night on the banks of a pond. It was a virtual

bullfrog serenade. It sounded as if a dozen of the oldest and fattest frogs in a pond were trying to "outcroak" each other.

About five of the youthful crew were rubbing old automobile spring leaves over the top of hardwood pegs which were driven into the ground. The result of this operation sounded exactly like the grunt of a bullfrog. The effect was appalling. Heavy vibrations raked the surface of the ground, and the worms, finding it a bit uncomfortable down below, lost no time crawling out of their holes. This, it seems, was the object.

The crew seemed to be split up in squads of three and four, and one large squad numbering about eight, was headed by a veteran "grunter." While one member of the squad rubbed vigorously on his peg, the others scrambled around gathering the earthworms as they came to the surface.

Right, a freckle-faced youngster beams over her harvest of worms for which she will get 15 cents per hundred. Below, a youthful crew of "grunters" at work.



Usually, worms within a radius of 30 feet from the peg are affected by the vibrations. However, this varies with the dampness of the soil. The vibrations travel farther when the ground is dry.

GRUNTING is practiced throughout Calhoun County. However, Andrew Coxwell, the head of this particular crew, claims to be the originator of "Grunting" for commercial purposes. Coxwell, who is 59-years-

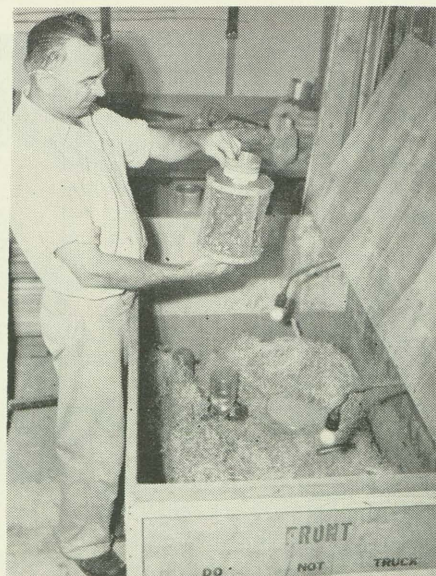
old, started his business 22 years ago during what he terms "hard times."

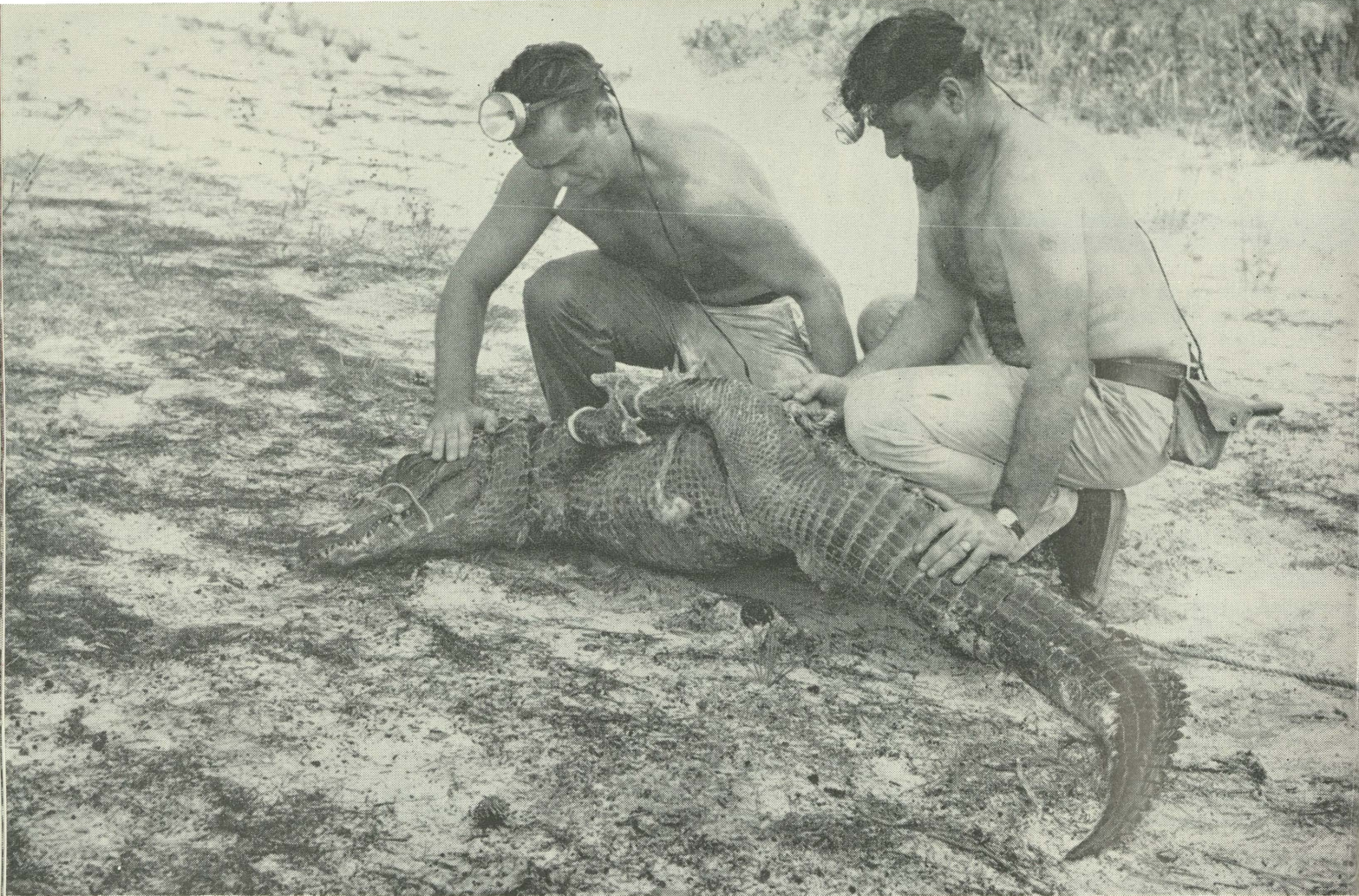
Coxwell estimates that he sells on an average of 20,000 worms a week. His worms bring anywhere from 50 to 65 cents per hundred, wholesale, and 75 cents to one dollar retail. He pays members of his crew 15 to 25 cents per 100 for picking up the worms.

Also included in his expenses is the leasing of the ground he uses for

(Continued on Page 16)

Below, worm culturist A. B. Gilbert holds a wire trap containing grasshoppers which he raises as a sideline to his worm business.

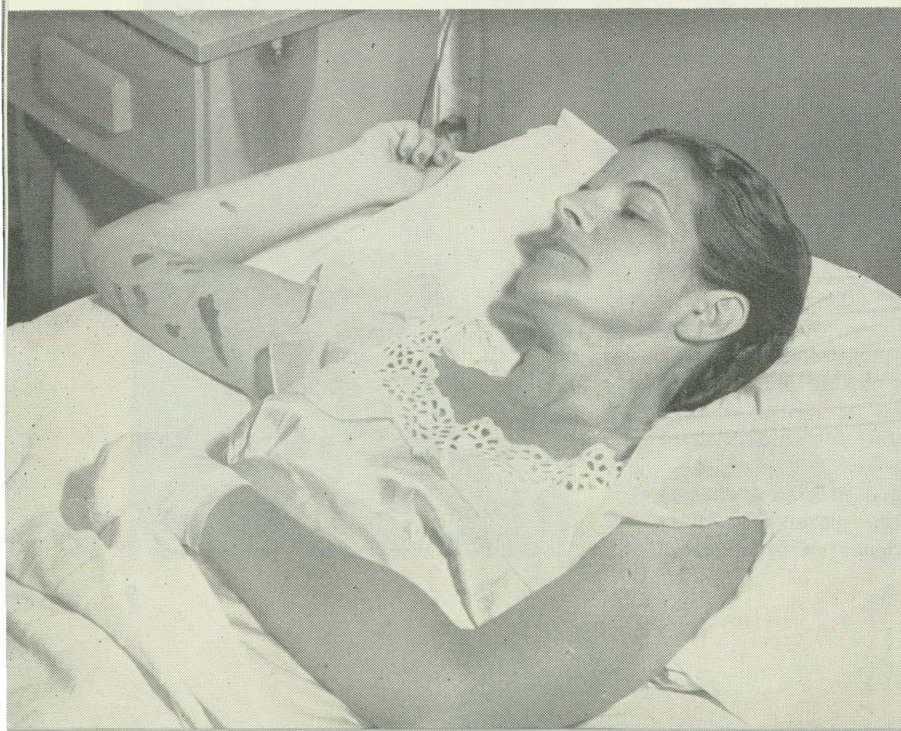




Don Russel, left, and Al Zaebs, hog-tie old "Nine-Footer" after dragging him from his lair.

Alligators DO Attack!

by WILLIAM CARLE



Martha Belle Smith learned the hard way that 'gators will bite.

MARTHA BELLE SMITH, of Weekiwachee Springs, has definitely knocked into a cocked hat the time honored theory that alligators will never make an unprovoked attack on a human. What's more, Mrs. Smith disproved the theory the hard way—at a total cost of 21 stitches in her right arm, a lacerated and broken left hand and a severe case of nervous jitters!

Today, she is the proud possessor of the hide of a savage 9 foot 2 inch 'gator that attack her while she was enjoying a peaceful swim in the crystal-clear Weekiwachee River.

Although Mrs. Smith had virtually been "rubbing elbows" with alligators for a year during daily swims down the river from the head of the main

springs, she had not the slightest fear. At least two of Florida's most outstanding herpetologists had assured her many times that she was safe from an alligator's attack unless she first molested him.

Immediately she accepted the theory as fact. Until Friday July 30 she had implicit faith in the herpetologists' advice. That was the day "Old Nine Footer," a 'gator with a lair beneath a palm tree that leaned outward across the river, slashed at her savagely and changed her mind.

On that fateful afternoon, Mrs. Smith felt something brush against her right leg while she was swimming past the leaning tree. Then before she could turn, something grabbed her right elbow. It was a 250-pound 'gator.

"Pain shot through my arm when his jaws snapped shut," she related later. "Suddenly he made a terrifying roll but lost his hold. Like a streak of lightning, he darted around me and then turned and started straight at me. I was frantic—I struck at his ugly mouth with my left hand. He grabbed me again and I felt a bone snap in my hand. Then, as if by magic, the 'gator turned and disappeared."

Bleeding profusely, Mrs. Smith scrambled to shore and fought her way through the jungle-like bush country for more than a mile to the main buildings at the springs. Immediately she was taken to the Brooksville hospital where 21 stitches were required to close the deep gashes in her right arm.

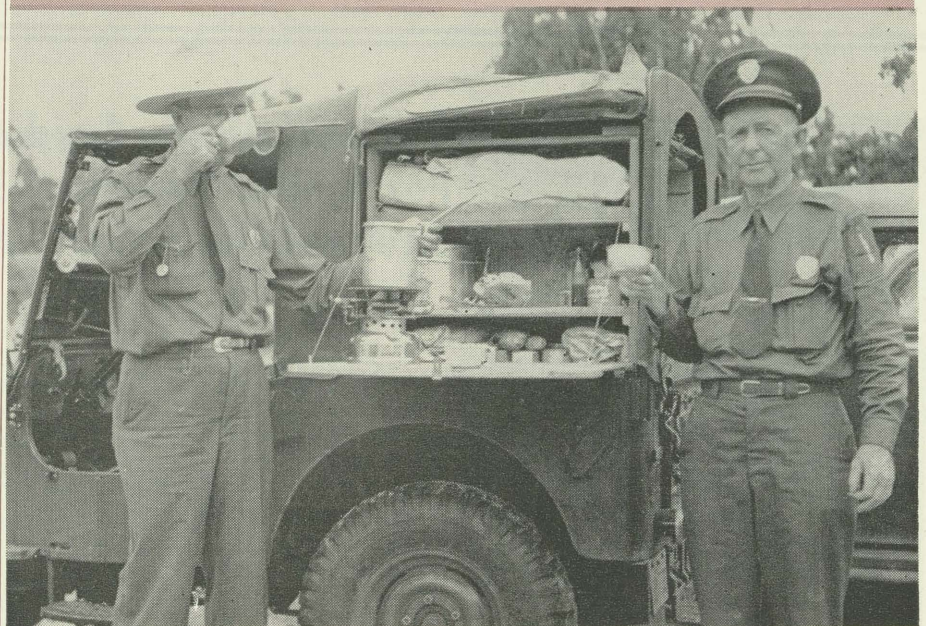
Late that night, Mrs. Smith's husband, president of the St. Petersburg Springs company, administered the "coup de grace" to the outlaw 'gator after it had been captured alive by Al Zaebst, noted African big game hunter, Don Russel, assistant aquatics manager, and Curator Alton Smith, all connected with the jungle cruise featured at the Springs.

A .38 caliber pistol bullet ended the 'gator's career as a potential killer but not until after he savagely snapped a 2 x 6 green pine board as a final demonstration of his strength and viciousness.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Smith has completely lost faith in the scientific belief that alligators never make an unprovoked attack. She knows better!

CAMP on WHEELS

by
NICHOLAS CURTIS



Wildlife Officers Tom Kirk (left) and R. N. Cook have a quick cup of coffee brewed in the latter's "rolling lodge."

WILDLIFE officers lead a rugged life at best, but prolonged patrol duty, which means days and nights in the woods alone, has always been the most deadly portion of their routine. Down in southwest Florida, however, a piece of good old American ingenuity has come forth to sugar-coat that particular pill. There, game wardens of the First Conservation District are capitalizing on the versatility of that jack - of - all - transportation, the jeep, to equip themselves with a veritable camp on wheels.

A four-day patrol in the South Florida flatwoods is still no picnic, but the "rolling lodges," as the officers call them, have gone a long way to making the living—and especially the eating—more enjoyable.

A "rolling lodge" is nothing more than a jeep with a built-in kitchen, bedroom and pantry—all pocket-size, of course. The "kitchen" and "pantry" are housed in two neatly-constructed plywood cabinets very similar to those in your own normally-proportioned kitchen. Instead of being mounted over the kitchen sink, they are mounted atop the rear mudguard of a jeep.

Each of the cabinets boast nearly nine cubic feet of storage space, and are completely equipped with shelves and compartments. One is built to carry the camp stove, pots,

pans, knives, forks and all the utensils necessary to whip up a fast mess of victuals. This is the "Kitchen." In the other the warden stores his foodstuffs—potatoes, bacon, beans and even such luxurious accessories as mustard and ketchup. This is his "pantry," which will carry supplies for a full week.

The "kitchen" is equipped with a strong plywood door that drops onto two wire braces, making for an excellent and roomy worktable. If he likes, the warden can prepare his entire meal on the suspended door, with no squatting, no kneeling and none of the soggy discomfort that come from sitting on a mound of water-logged sand.

The built-in cabinets are only about 10 inches deep; a jeep is 56 inches wide; with the rear seats removed this leaves about three feet of walled-in space in the center section of the vehicle. This uncluttered area serves as the warden's "bedroom" — at night, that is. In the daytime it is utilized as a sort of general storeroom for axes, spotlights, confiscated fishing gear and other assorted paraphernalia that game wardens must usually pack around.

To make things downright cozy some of the wardens have utilized the jeep battery to rig up a neat

(Continued on Page 17)

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

Conserving, Protecting, Restoring and

In the Interest of the Sportsman



Attractive Sally McNeely, eight, recently selected as the Federation's official sweetheart.

Hernando Group Hears High Officials Speak At Brooksville Meet

Ralph G. Cooksey, president of the Florida Wildlife Federation, was one of a number of guest speakers at the recent outdoor dinner of the Hernando County Sportsmen's Club near Brooksville.

Outlining the importance of more conservation education in Florida, President Cooksey said that "we must make every man, woman and child in Florida realize that conservation is his job and his responsibility. We must get more junior clubs and women's auxiliary clubs interested in helping us carry the message of conservation into every home in Florida."

Cecil M. Webb, commissioner of District 1, State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, was introduced to the group by B. R. Saxon, the club's president. Commissioner Webb gave an interesting talk on what the commission is doing for Florida.

The fried chicken dinner, with all the trimmings, was spread on long tables beneath giant oak trees that border the Lewis Plantation just south of Brooksville. Club officials said a record crowd turned out for the festivities.

With "Better Conservation of Natural Resources" the primary goal of the Hernando organization, membership has greatly increased during the past year.

Elaborate Plans Laid For Annual Meeting; Site and Dates Set

Plans were completed at a recent meeting of the Florida Wildlife Federation in Miami to hold its annual convention October 23 and 24 at Forrestwood Sportsman's Lodge in Welaka.

Prominent conservationists and sportsmen from throughout Southeastern United States will attend the session. Outstanding speakers from many southern states will take part in an interesting program that is designed to cover all phases of wildlife and conservation.

During the two-day convention nominations and election of new officers will be conducted. In addition, a series of business meetings have been planned to go into the Federation program. Various projects of the organization will be discussed, and tentative plans will be made for new wildlife and conservation projects.

A big banquet will highlight the convention, and an interesting program of entertainment has been arranged by Federation officers as one of the feature attractions of the convention. Part of the program has been specially planned to interest the ladies.

Forrestwood Sportsmen's Lodge was chosen as the setting for the convention due to its central location, and because it is an appropriate spot for sportsmen to assemble.

Located on the St. Johns River, the lodge is surrounded by 65 acres of live oak, palm, magnolia and dogwood. The big colonial structure is a typical sportsman's lodge. Sportsmen who feel inclined to go fishing during the convention, will find good angling on the Ocklawaha and St. Johns Rivers.

Ralph G. Cooksey, Federation president, extends a cordial invitation to all interested sportsmen. However, he advises those who plan to attend to make reservations early at the lodge.

An attractive illustrated program will be sent shortly to all members of the Federation.

Collier County's four game wardens recently instituted a concentrated drive to eliminate out-of-season deer hunting.

OFFICERS

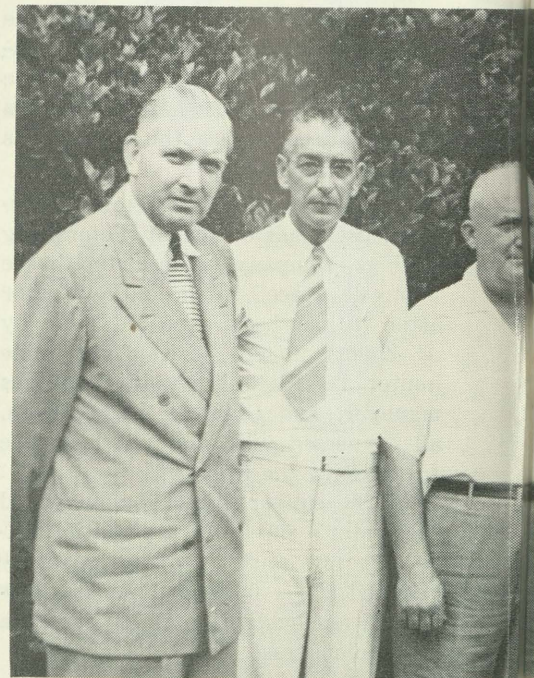
President.....	Ralph Cooksey, St. Petersburg
Treasurer.....	E. A. Markham, Gulfport
Recording Secretary.....	George A. Speer, Sanford
Executive Secretary.....	Mrs. Sara Alberson

Vivacious Sally McNeely Is Official "Sweetheart"

At the recent state-wide meeting of the Florida Wildlife Federation at Marianna, talented eight-year-old Sally McNeely, dancer, singer and xylophonist, was chosen "Sweetheart of the Florida Wildlife Federation."

Sally's sparkling routine was greatly appreciated by the audience. But she really won the sportsmen over with her answer to the question as to what she would like to do as guest of the Federation. "Go fishing!" was Sally's prompt retort.

Sally is noted for her work on USO tours in the last war and for her more recent appearances in veteran's hospitals in Georgia and Florida.



This group of officials attending the recent Federation President Ralph G. Cooksey; Francis Villar, director of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission; and Bob Sikes, both of Crestview.

FFW FEDERATION

and Lovers of the Outdoors

DISTRICT VICE-PRESIDENTS

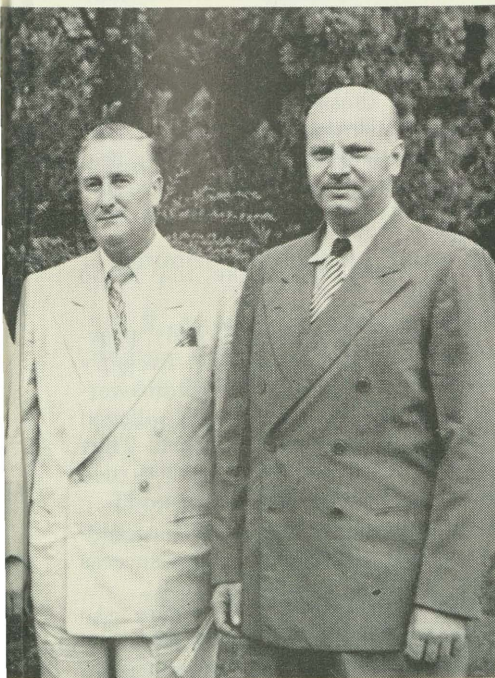
District 1	A. W. Cullis, Clearwater
District 2	S. R. Sanders, Lake City
District 3	D. R. Bowman, Tallahassee
District 4	Bill Wellman, West Palm Beach
District 5	Porter Lansing, Sanford

Florida Federation Issues A New Informative Booklet

"Florida—Your Land and My Land," is the title of the latest educational booklet released by the Florida Wildlife Federation. The publication contains in detail the purpose and objectives of the Florida Wildlife Federation.

Written in a lively style, the booklet presents interesting information about the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, State Board of Conservation, Florida Forest Service and the U. S. Forest Services. The functions of each one of these departments is outlined.

The booklet may be procured by sending a postal card to Florida Wildlife Federation, 10 Chamber of Commerce Bldg., St. Petersburg, Fla.



Meeting at Marianna, includes l. to r., Federation District chief wildlife officer Ben C. Morgan, State Senator Newman Brackin and Congressman

Attendance Record Established During Marianna Conclave

MARIANNA—Congressman Bob Sikes and State Senator Newman Brackin, at a recent state-wide meeting of the Florida Wildlife Federation here, pledged full support of the Federation's conservation program. The two legislators lauded the federation and local clubs for outstanding work throughout the state.

Approximately 100 persons attended the two-day outdoorsman's convention, which offered a varied program of entertainment in addition to round-table discussions and talks by a large group of notables. Among the speakers were L. G. Morris, commissioner of the 3rd District, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission; E. B. Chamberlain, waterfowl biologist, and Claude Kelly, president of the Alabama Wildlife Federation who spoke of the progress his organization has made in obtaining better hunting and fishing conditions in this state.

During the round-table discussion, Ben Morgan, director of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, answered many pertinent questions concerning wildlife which were asked by the assembly of sportsmen. Bill Snyder, associate editor of FLORIDA WILDLIFE, made a talk entitled "What Is a Sportsman?"

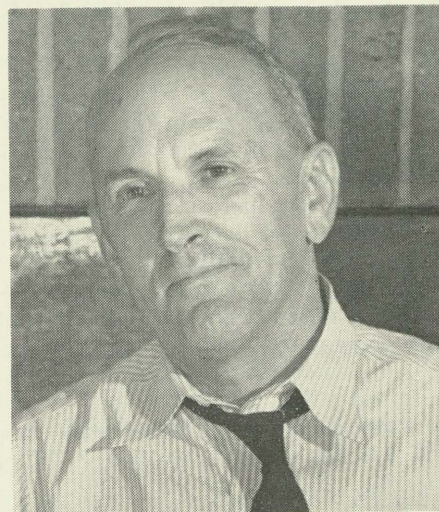
Joe Padderatz, the world's only armless rod and reel fisherman, gave an exhibition of his astounding talents. He adeptly attached an outboard motor to a rowboat and proceeded to start it unassisted. After baiting his own hook, he topped off the show with some fancy casting.

Before the meeting, Francis Villar, chief wildlife officer of the 3rd District, and his staff of wildlife officers, put on a colossal fish fry. Crisp, brown fish were served with potato salad, bass chowder, pickles, hush-puppies and hot coffee.

During one of the meetings the entire group joined in the singing of the new official song of the Federation: "Sportsman's Paradise," written by Sarah Alberson.

According to Federation President Ralph G. Cooksey, the Marianna meet was the largest in the history of the Federation.

Killer whales attack anything that swims. They will even eat the tongues of living whales.



Dr. U. S. "Preacher" Gordon, Gainesville, prexy of the livewire Alachua County Sportsmen's Association, is one of the state's best-known club leaders.

Orange County Group Launches Plans for New Island Clubhouse

Members of the Orange County Sportsman's Association, Orlando, recently inspected a proposed clubhouse site on Bear Island, 18 miles southeast of Orlando.

The 34-acre island, situated between Lakes Hart and Mary Jane, is owned by Orange County and can be leased for \$1 a year, club officials said. Club members who viewed the island said it was bordered by white sand beaches and studded with large oaks and pines. There is ample space for pistol, rifle, trap and skeet ranges, and much good hunting territory in the vicinity.

To assist in financing a club park project, the annual membership dues were raised from two dollars a year to five.

As the result of a recent membership drive headed by Dick Pickerill, Mell Wills, George Karst and Bill James, the association roll has soared over the 200 mark.

At a recent meeting the following new officers were installed: Richard T. (Dick) Tucker, president; J. Y. Rudler, vice president; Billy Fulford, secretary, and J. D. Letton, treasurer. The new officers are also members of the board of directors.

Ducks have almost telescopic eyesight. They can focus their eyes for near or far vision.

ARMISTICE . . . (Continued from Page 3)

Wildlife Officer Carl Walker was the second "salesman" chosen. As a law enforcement officer during the Volstead days he had been bad medicine for whiskey runners and illicit still operators. As a wildlife officer he had established a reputation as a fearless campaigner against poachers, fire hunters and all other breeds of game law violators. Commissioner Webb reasoned, and rightfully too, that cattle raisers in general would welcome Walker's aid in their relentless warfare against the growing cattle-killing clan.

When Webb had selected his two top salesmen he delivered a message to the other 48 wildlife officers in his district. He explained the plan fully; the rest of the message was brief and to the point.

"Any officer who fails to cooperate fully with this cause will be fired," he warned. "It's a program that must and will be carried out. From now on, you officers will offer full protection to the cattlemen's interests in return for their promise to open up their ranches to hunters they feel justified in accepting."

Within a day or two, Chief Albritton and Officer Walker started visiting cattle raisers—and the "sales campaign" went into high gear.

The two salesmen tackled the gargantuan assignment with the sensible realization that Rome couldn't be built in a day. They knew too that the cattlemen's original decision to close their land had been pretty well justified by the "thumbed nose" attitude of many so-called sportsmen. Hunters, in the past, had invaded the ranches without permission—they had cut fences, forgotten to close important gates, set fire to woodlands and left a trail of valuable cattle killed and wounded through sheer carelessness.

Nevertheless, the Webb plan very definitely took hold. Reports covering the first two months after it was launched, disclosed that more than a million acres have already been pledged for hunting on the special permit basis. On the other hand, hundreds of First District sportsmen have offered their services in keeping the undesirable element off the cattle ranches in return for a deeply-appreciated special hunting privilege.

Burton Walker, Plant City cattleman and President of Hillsborough County Cattleman's Association, was among the first to take a shot at the Webb Plan.

Said Walker: "As a citizen of Florida as well as a cattleman, I have every respect for the game laws of our state and do not hold a selfish feeling toward anyone enjoying the privileges of hunting and fishing. However, as a property owner, I have in the past and I will in the future consider that I have a sovereign right to say who shall not enter upon my property."

Walker's attitude was understandable. Only a year before, the cattle-

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Late Summer

By B. W. PARTRIDGE

Another Summer's almost gone,

With all its heat and rain—

Its pastures green, its fields of corn,

And crops of other grain;

And now, it won't be very long

Till Fall will come, and then

We'll join a happy, outdoor throng

To welcome it again.

The ducks and geese in great, big flocks,

From northern breeding grounds,

In search of oyster bars, and rocks

Where fav'rite grass abounds,

Will, with a harvest moon like day

And crispy, fallish air,

Begin to wend their southward way—

To spend the Winter there.

And hunters, who have waited long,

Will oil each trusty gun,

And put their shells where they belong,

And count them every one;

And build new blinds, and paint their boats,

And buy more woolen hose

And warmer shirts and duckin' coats,

And other huntin' clothes.

Yes, sportsmen are a funny lot,

With memories of the kind

That failures all are soon forgot

And never called to mind;

None but the good days matter now,

And fog and cold and rain

And disappointments fade, some how,

While but the best remain.

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man had suffered a "raw deal" from several so-called sportsmen hunting on his ranch. Through their carelessness, 400 calves were freed from a corral where they were being held for branding. It took four days and nights to round up the animals in a cypress swamp and a final check-up disclosed the loss of 47 calves—valued at \$1,000. Being a property-owner himself, Webb could understand Walker's one reservation.

"You are absolutely correct in your insistence that you have sole right to issue hunting permits," the commissioner wrote him. "It is your land and your property and no one should attempt to deprive you of such a privilege. We feel that we have made a great step forward in securing your cooperation—the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission appreciates it and I am sure every true sportsman appreciates it too" . . .

Although Walker's acceptance of the Webb Plan was a definite victory, it failed to slow up the "salesmen" in their campaign. During the next two weeks they presented the plan to 30 individual cattlemen and the tally showed that all but one of them agreed to give it a try. As a result, tracts of land ranging from 260,000 acres down to 5,000 have been pledged in exchange for the commission's promise to give cattle rustlers and outlaw hunters a "hard time."

Meanwhile, interest in the plan gains momentum each day. Chief Albritton predicted a peak of at least two million acres before Fall, and Commissioner Webb optimistically promised five million acres of limited hunting territory before the 1949-50 hunting season rolls around.

Wisely, however, they are not painting the new hunting ground picture as an "over-night miracle." Everywhere, sportsmen are being advised to accept the first "crumbs" graciously without expecting a whole loaf. They know that perhaps only two or three proven sportsmen will be permitted to hunt this year on some ranches. If those two or three lucky hunters cooperate fully with the host rancher, however, it's a safe bet that more and more hunters will be admitted to the same ranch from year to year.

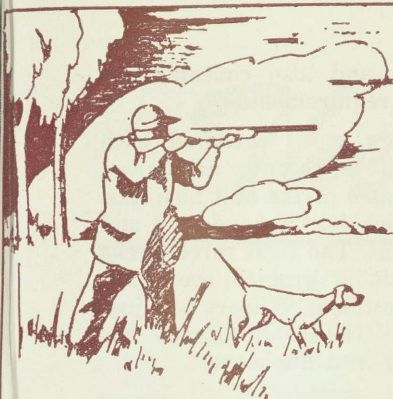
That's what will make the Webb Plan tick.

Wildlife officers are already proving the plan isn't all theory. Recently in Charlotte county, two wildlife officers ran on to a pair of alleged cattle rustlers on a large ranch. They promptly arrested them and turned them over to the sheriff.

Commissioner Webb gives top credit to Chief Albritton for the success of his plan.

"The program is going over the top and Albritton deserves most of the credit. Cattlemen everywhere in the district respect him as a man and as a law enforcement officer," Webb explains.

(Continued on Page 21)



from

SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS



A set of by-laws and a charter will be presented for adoption at the next meeting of the newly formed Palm Beach County Sportsman's Club, West Palm Beach's newest conservation organization.

The month-old club has inaugurated a 12-point program featuring conservation. Included in the program are quail, turkey and deer restocking; feeding and protection of game; fire and flood prevention; predatory animal control; liaison with cattle and land owners; protection of domestic animals; establishment of game preserves; game legislation; junior sportsman's groups; safety and first aid; field trials and kennel shows.

Dr. I. N. Kennedy of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission recognized the potentialities of the sportsman's group in a recent address before the club. Dr. Kennedy remarked that the organization has the "best prospects for a working organization that I have ever seen."

Club officers are **C. E. Hays**, president; **W. E. Roebuck**, **E. Harris Drew** and **C. S. Bigbee**, vice presidents; **F. F. Winfree**, secretary and **Bryan Prevatt**, treasurer.

Membership is open to outdoorsmen and conservationists throughout Palm Beach County.

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S. A. Mills recently was reelected president of the Citrus County Sportsman's Club. Also named to office were **Carl Cappell**, vice president; **Betty Mund**, secretary, and **Jean Gunn**, treasurer.

Club directors are **Norman Bowles**, chairman; **Thomas Sike**, **George R. Priest** and **Malcom Williamson**.

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The East Hillsborough Fish and Game Club adopted a new charter and by-laws at a recent meeting. Various activities of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission were outlined to the sportsmen by **Chick Archer**, Tampa wildlife officer. Over 30 members were present.

The Pensacola Anglers and Hunters Club recently distributed a large quantity of the booklet "Where To Fish In Florida" to hardware and sporting goods stores for use by the public.

Published by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the booklet contains a list of fishing camps in the state by counties, and also information as to the location of each camp as well as the number of boats and cabins available to the angler.

At the recent monthly meeting of the club, interesting movies on hunting and fishing were shown.

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Members of the Sportsman's Club of Dade County at a recent meeting listened to a young Miamian tell a thrilling tale of courage and adventure.

The Miamian, **Jack Schultz**, gave an account of his personal experiences during a 6,000-mile journey from the headwaters of the Amazon in Ecuador, to Miami in a 17-foot Indian dug-out canoe. The trip required 14 months to complete. In one stretch of his journey, Schultz traveled 800 miles without sighting land.

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Frog hunters in the Lake Worth area recently organized the Palm Beach County Froggers Association, and elected **W. C. Walls** of Lake Worth, president of the group. **W. B. Eastman**, also of Lake Worth, was named secretary. The motto of the association is "Protection of Wildlife." Membership cards bearing this motto have been issued.

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The predator committee of the Levy County Wildlife Conservation Club has extended the closing date of the Predator Derby to midnight, September 30. Over \$100 in awards will be given to the winning exterminators of the following "varmints": skunk, opossum, stray house cats, crow, fox, bobcat and blue darter hawks.

WEALTH IN WORMS

(Continued from Page 9)

"grunting." Coxwell has the "worm rights" on 900 acres of fine worm land owned by Carl Gillis. Gillis gets a cut of 10 cents for every 100 worms that Coxwell takes from his property. Gillis admits that the sudden demand for worms has been a bonanza for him. He only paid \$3,500 for his acreage, and during the first year of operation his "worm toll" amounted to \$1,500. There have been as many as 13 crews working over his ground at one time.

Coxwell distributes his worms to gas stations, fishing camps and individuals in cities and towns throughout north and west Florida. Before the last war, he shipped worms by bus to Texas, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, but because of the cramped condition of bus transportation during the war, he discontinued shipments. Coxwell hasn't resumed bus shipments as yet. He has enough worries trying to fill local orders.

Less back breaking and on more of a scientific basis, is the comparatively new idea of back yard worm raising.

A. B. Gilbert of Chipley, Fla., in Washington County is one of the pioneer worm raisers of the state. Although he is still experimenting in worm culture, he has made some sizeable profits during the short space of time in which he has raised worms for commercial purposes.

Ten years ago Gilbert sent to California for 12 containers of red earthworms which he intended to use for fishing. Gilbert deposited the worms in a section of earth near a chicken coop, and from that day on he never had to worry about hunting up a canful of worms to use for fishing. In fact, Gilbert eventually had enough worms to supply the needs of his fishermen friends.

However, the thought of capitalizing on his earthworms didn't occur to him until one day late in 1947. A doctor friend casually suggested that Gilbert construct an earthworm flat and start selling the worms to fishermen. Gilbert thought it over for awhile and finally decided to build a small concrete flat.

Gilbert enlarged his worm pits to an area of 2500 square feet, and in January he began to sell worms in earnest. Since the first of this year, he has taken in over \$3,600!

THE worm flats are of simple construction. They are nothing but a concrete base with a wall about a foot high running along the edges of the concrete floor. A number of posts have been sunk in the ground to support a ceiling of chicken wire. Moss has been strewn over the wire to stop the rays of the sun which otherwise would cause the damp pits to dry up.

Gilbert uses no soil at all in the worm pits. They are filled with cotton seed hulls, ground corn husks, sugar cane waste, and peat moss. For feed Gilbert spreads alfalfa hay, wheat bran and snap corn over the pits.

The worms thrive in this composition of food. They multiply and grow with considerable rapidity. When queried as to the number of worms in the flats, Gilbert just turned over a handful of earth in a few places.

NOT THE FISH'S FAULT

It's the fisherman and not the fish who are responsible if the catches have been slim on Lake Beauclair in Lake County.

Chief Biologist John F. Dequine of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, who is doing some experimental seining in the county, said the first test haul made in Lake Beauclair yielded over 25,000 pounds of bass, bream, specks and shellcracker.

Bass caught in the nets have averaged two and eight-tenths pounds, while many shellcrackers have hit the three-pound mark, he said.

Worms tumbled all over the place. He couldn't make a guess at how many worms he had in the flats, but there must have been tens of thousands.

Gilbert has many markets for his bait. Probably the best though is Blue Springs, one of Jackson County's most famous bream havens.

Gilbert packs his worms in peat moss and paper in cardboard containers. Canned in this manner, he says, the worms will keep perfectly for well over a month! In fact, Gilbert once had a container of worms that stayed alive and kicking through a winter season! The peat moss and paper composition apparently acts as

an insulator, and also contains the worm's food requirements.

Gilbert, very much satisfied with his worm venture, recently has delved into other phases of the bait business. These are crickets, "puppydogs," and catawba worms. The first three weeks of cricket raising grossed over \$250 on a \$50 investment. Gilbert has just begun in this field, but already has things rolling in a big way.

Eight large packing cases equipped only with two small electric bulbs are used to breed the crickets. Each box has a quantity of sand in the bottom, a pan of water, a tray of chicken mash and a couple of pounds of excelsior.

The chicken mash serves as adequate feed for the crickets, and the female cricket lays her eggs a little below the surface of the sand. With proper temperatures, (85 degrees F.) the eggs hatch in seven days. The baby crickets then head for the clumps of excelsior which affords them a semblance of their natural habitat.

Gilbert has a number of catawba trees on his land that supply him with catawba worms. The catawba worm, a caterpillar-like creature that averages two inches in length, feeds heavily on the leaves of the catawba tree. Additional small catawba trees have been planted and Gilbert now has a virtual catawba "orchard."

A light supply of puppydogs (orange colored lizards) are kept on hand by Gilbert the year-round. These water lizards, native of Alabama, are considered excellent bait for large mouth bass—especially during brisk weather. They live well in a box with water-soaked moss.

Gilbert has plans to add live shiners to his bait stock this fall. He has already taken steps to construct a large concrete pool that will support hundreds of small bait fish.

Does Mr. Gilbert believe that live bait is a dependable and consistent business? You bet he does. You see, worms and such have just been a sideline for him to date. Gilbert is really the owner and operator of a large turkey and chicken farm. Believe it or not, he is selling out all his some thousand chickens, turkeys and equipment.

In Mr. Gilbert's own words: "No more chickens for me. Its live bait from here on out!"

They're **BITING** Here

Black bass are really going for live shrimp near Jacksonville in the St. Johns River and its tributaries. Anglers who prefer plug and fly fishing are meeting with success also.

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OSCEOLA COUNTY

The bass, perch and bream on Lake Marion and the St. Johns River are rising for a large variety of artificial and live baits. Early morning and late afternoon anglers are getting the best catches.

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BREVARD COUNTY

You won't have any trouble snagging into some pretty bass on Lake Helina and Lake Saw Grass. The fellows are taking them near the saw grass late in the afternoon on the Dalton Special, Two Thousand and the Johnson Spoon.

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CALHOUN COUNTY

If you use worms you can catch a bucketfull of bream and shellcrackers anywhere on the Dead Lakes and Chipola River. The fish wear the feed bag early in the morning and late in the day.

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COLLIER COUNTY

Anglers here are connecting with sizable catches of pan fish at Lake Trafford near Immokalee. It is suggested you fish along the edge of the lake.

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LAKE OKEECHOBEE

Live bait has been accounting for large bass, bream and catfish here in the deep sections of Kissimmee River and Lake Okeechobee. Anglers have been catching catfish of unusual size—10 to 18 pounds—while fishing with shiners for bass.

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LAKE COUNTY

Good catches of large and small mouth bass are being made at Lakes Harris, Louise, Sumner, Emma, Blue, and Twin Lakes. The big fellows are hitting in the morning at dusk near islands, bonnet pads and in deep water. Fishermen have had best luck with the Crip-

pled Minnow, Lucky 13 and a silver spoon with pork rind. On calm lakes, shellcracker, blue gill, warmouth and red fin pike have been hitting worms. Mr. Pipin of Mt. Dora recently landed two whoppers at one of the lakes. The two fish tipped the beam at nine pounds, ten ounces, and eight pounds, 12 ounces. The angler was using a Lucky 13 lure. A large mouth weighing 12 pounds, eight ounces was caught by Mrs. Mincey. Broker Dukes of Groveland got into a tough battle with a large mouth bass that hit 12 pounds, 12 ounces on the scales.

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MANATEE COUNTY

You will find that large mouth bass in Myakka Lake and on the Myakka River are hitting noisy, top-water plugs. Blue gills are striking at wet flies and worms. Fishing is best in the afternoon.

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DIXIE COUNTY

At the mouth of the Suwannee River here black bass are striking live minnows on the rising tide. While fishing on this section of the river recently, Runy Vail and Jack McCloskie bagged seven bass that totaled 35 pounds.

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POLK COUNTY

Anglers are hauling some nice catches of large mouth bass, bream and speckled perch from Lake Hatchineha and Lake Kissimmee. The Johnson Spoon, Lucky 13, Hula Popper and live shiners are the baits that have been getting the top catches. Speckled perch are hitting various live baits. At Grape Hammock on Lake Kissimmee, S. E. Hameson and C. A. Windham recently caught 16 bass on Johnson Spoons.

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PASCO COUNTY

Large bass are being taken at Big Lake, and bream of unusually large size are being caught regularly at Hancock Lake and Henderson's Ranch. Shellcrackers are biting good at Clear Lake (Jovita) at San Antonis. Worms are the best bait.

Dates Set for Annual Bear Hunt In Apalachicola National Forest

Although they don't know it, Mamma and Papa Bruin Bear are scheduled for a "hard time" this fall when the 198,500-acre management area of Apalachicola Forest will be invaded by a limited number of sportsmen during a series of six three-day hunting trips.

Through arrangements completed by Director Ben C. Morgan, State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and J. B. Dahl, acting supervisor, United States Forest Service, applications for group hunting permits are now being received. The application deadline has been set for September 24.

The special hunting permits, Director Morgan explained, will be issued to groups only—none to individuals. Each group must have at least 10 and not more than 15 members. Only one group at a time will be permitted to hunt during the series of three-day hunts scheduled for October 6, 13, 20, 27 and November 3 and 10.

Applications for permits are to be mailed by group leaders to the District Ranger, Wilma, Florida, and must contain the names and addresses of individual members. Money orders, made payable to Alvis S. Owen, representing \$5 for each group member, must accompany the application. Group leaders are asked to specify their hunting date choice. In cases of conflict in date requests, definite dates will be determined by lot at the Ranger's office on September 24.

Hunters will be allowed to use their own dogs on the three-day trips, and in addition, qualified guides are prepared to supply additional hounds, at specified rates, if arrangements are made in advance. The names and addresses of accredited guides will be provided by hunt officials as soon as group permits have been issued.

Prospective hunters are being warned in advance concerning the total lack of modern conveniences in the forest.

"There are no cigar stores or powder rooms just around the corner in the forest," one of the rangers explained. "Leave your store clothes at home, and bring along a substantial food supply and an extra pack or two of cigarettes or a handful of cigars," he advised.

This marks the third time in 11 years the forest has been opened to bear hunters and the rangers are predicting that "about 12 to 15" members of the bruin family will be accounted for during the series of six hunts.

A quarter of a century ago there were 14,383 different kinds of shot shell loads. Today there are 137, still plenty for all kinds of shooting.



Wildlife Officer Vernon Hays is carrying on a one-man rescue program in Palm Beach County. He is extracting bass from a net (above), after he saved them from death in a dried-up canal. (Below), Hays deposits the rescued fish in drums filled with ice water for transfer to deeper water.



Noted Florida Sportsman Dies on Northern Vacation

Louis Campbell, widely known sportsman, of the Forshalee Plantation, Tallahassee, died suddenly in New York City last month when he was stricken with a heart attack.

Campbell was recognized as one of Florida's outstanding quail authorities and his plan for producing and raising the game birds had been the pattern for quail raisers in many states.

He suffered the heart attack shortly after arriving in New York on an expected two-weeks vacation.



Sue Saxon proudly displays prize-winning smallmouth bass caught by her father.

Florida Smallmouth Wins National Tilt

Easton L. Saxon of Brooksville, has been notified that his 12-pound, 10-ounce smallmouth black bass has been awarded first place in that division of the Outdoorsman Magazine fishing contest.

The prize-winning smallmouth was the second largest ever caught, the established record for the species being 14 pounds. Saxon landed the fish in Simmons Lake on a rod and reel that he has been using for 30 years. He was wading along the shore and casting a Johnson Spoon when the bass struck.

Saxon's catch is particularly outstanding since the smallmouth bass is not a native of Florida waters. His natural habitat is the cool, clear running streams of northern climes.

Saxon will receive as his award the following array of fishing and outdoor equipment: Gephart No. 700 casting rod; Frazer casting reel; Streamliner; Gladding casting line; Western Lace & Line line; Berry-Lebeck reel case; Robotrol; Streameze fish sack and a Hamel Minotrappier.

An assortment of lures which includes: Paul Bunyan, Fred Arbogast, Weezel, Berry-Lebeck, Troll-Rite (Gentleman Jim), Tom's Bait, Jack's Bait, L. & S. Baits, Johnson's Silver Minnow, Ev Shelby, Lou Eppinger, Holden Line Co., Bomber Bait and P. & K. Bait.

Other equipment includes: Metal Ware electric lantern, Silicote line dressing, Silicote dry fly dressing, Maypole Gaff, Zippo lighter, L. & H. Sterns pipe, "Fighting Fish" lapel pin, George Hemingway knife, and two cards Panef "Lub-A-Spray."

TURKEY MECCA—MAYBE

(Continued from Page 7)

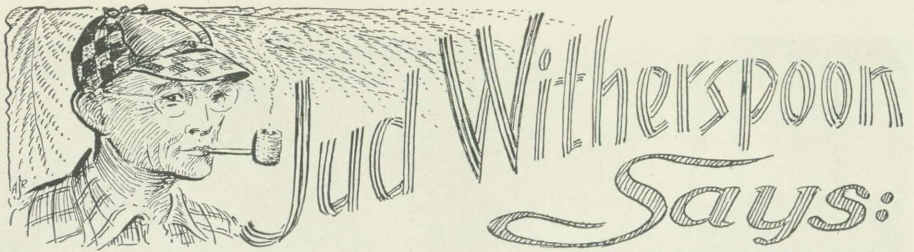
domestic birds with wild ones, they very often can gain some good shooting if the members control the number killed and are satisfied with a less sporty bird. Clubs that are dependent upon cross-breeds for their shooting often need additional birds following each hunting season. This is particularly true where hunting is not carefully controlled. Another important factor to be seriously considered is the fact that domestic and semi-domestic turkeys are more susceptible to disease, and thus it is quite possible to destroy the "real McCoy" turkeys on a range by introducing contagious diseases.

It is generally conceded that we should use nothing but native wild birds in our future restocking program. The plan in Florida is progressing slowly but surely and, barring any serious set-backs, we will succeed in trapping at least 250 wild turkeys for restoration work this coming fall and winter.

The statewide turkey survey, recently completed, disclosed that three or four areas are available where successful trapping can be conducted. Birds trapped this year will be released on state-owned lands and other areas where the game department can rigidly control hunting for a number of years. This practice, if strictly adhered to, will produce excellent returns in hunting pleasure for the average sportsman within a few years.

The present turkey restoration plan calls for securing hunting rights on large tracts of land; restocking with wild turkeys; and allowing sufficient time for the stock to increase to the point where public hunting can be safely allowed. Under no consideration should a restocked area be opened to hunting until it has reached a satisfactory carrying capacity. This procedure may easily take from four to 10 years. But remember, it is very definitely poor game management to stock one year and then expect to hunt the following season.

Many hunters regard the wild turkey as the king of all game birds. We in Florida can capitalize on that reputation, but it's going to take a lot of time and plenty of patience—plus the wholehearted cooperation of the turkey-hunting sportsmen.



Things have been mighty like "old home week" for your friend Witherspoon lately while I was headin' my old flivver up and down the highways from one end of the state to the other. While lookin' for a few fishin' stories in a lot of unexpected places I have managed to run into a lot of old friends that I used to bend an elbow with back in my newspaper reportin' days . . .

Down in St. Petersburg, for instance, I had quite a pleasant visit with Paul Davis, Harold Ballew and Rube Allyn. Meetin' those fellows made me kind of remember that I'm gettin' older. Back in the old days, Davis was city editor of the *EVENIN' INDEPENDENT*—Ballew was copy boy at the *TIMES*, and Rube was poundin' one of those tricky linotype machines in the composin' room at the same newspaper. But now look at 'em!! Davis is managin' editor of the *Independent*, Ballew is the big shot news editor for Davis, and Rube is acknowledged to be one of the smartest doggone outdoor writers in the business . . .

Then I headed down to Miami where I found Ned Aitchison sittin' in the head position at the *HERALD'S* city desk. He was a little balder than when I reported for him for a seven-year stretch at St. Petersburg—and I kinda think maybe my bad actions in those good old days might be responsible for his thinnin' hair . . .

Over at the Miami *DAILY NEWS* I found Salty Mallants fussin' and fumin' about his daily fishin' column and radio program. Sweatin' as he was, he found time to tell me about a flyin' machine trip he'd just made to Lake Okeechobee. Seems like he flew to the lake, unloaded his fishin' gear and started swingin' bait at the big ones. In nine casts he'd landed five swell bass. In less than the time it takes to tell it, Salty was back at his desk in Miami and his missus was fryin' those fat bass for his lunch . . .

* * * *

It takes a kid to really spring somethin' unconscious like that winds up by givin' us old codgers a good belly laugh—and that's exactly what happened at Tampa while the Game Commission and the Hillsborough County Wildlife Association were stagin' a fishathon for the youngsters. All the grownups showed signs of poppin' eyes when a couple of those attractive mermaids from Weekiwachee Springs arrived to put on a special swimmin' act at the lake where the kids' fishin' party was bein' held. Two little fellers freckled and givin' all their interest to catchin' a fish, were talkin' together. Said one of the kids: "There comes one of them mermaids to do some fancy swimmin'." "Which one is the mermaid?" his buddy asked. "Aw, it's that girl with the short bathin' suit," the first little feller answered kinda disgusted like. "Why," his friend answered, "that ain't no mermaid—there's the mermaid standin' over there—it's that big man with all the sea weed on his chin." All us old fellers had a good belly laugh when we saw that the boy was pointin' at Al Zaebst, the African big game hunter who still wears whiskers on his chin since his last jungle hunt. I'll bet that's the first time Al has ever been mistaken for a mermaid . . .

CAMP ON WHEELS

(Continued from Page 11)

little six-volt ceiling light for their "bedroom."

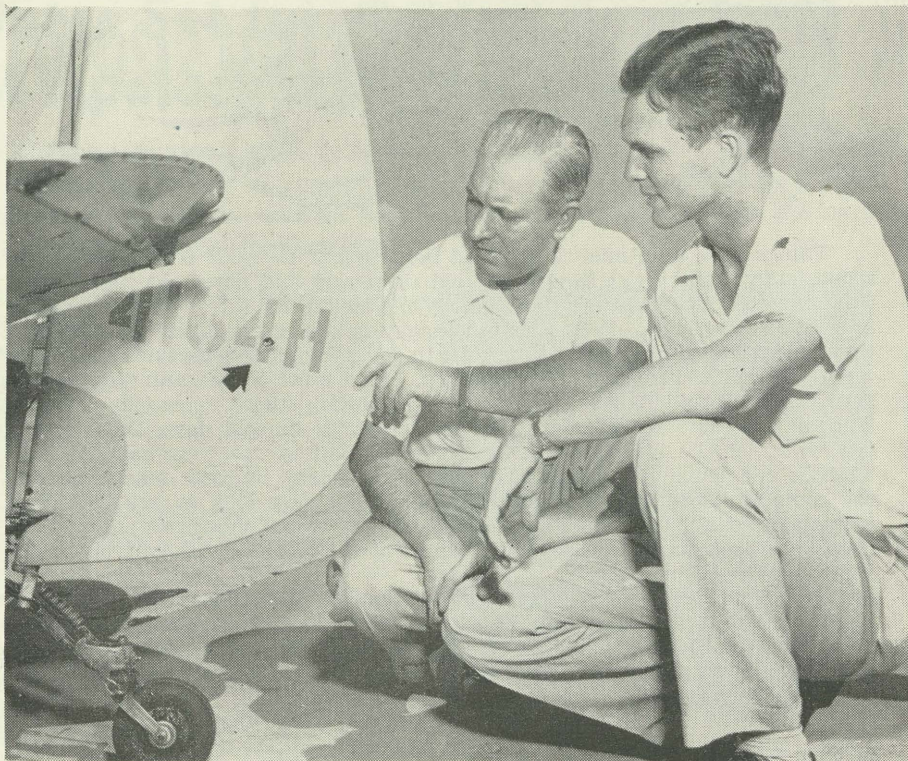
Wildlife Officer John Hardin of Arcadia is credited with hatching the "rolling lodge" idea. Hardin's territory includes some of the most desolate country in Florida, and as John puts it, he began "to get damn tired of having to spend an hour packing camp equipment every time I started on patrol."

Being a man with initiative, John began looking around for something to cure his particular headache. The "rolling lodge" turned out to be the remedy.

When District Chief Ed Albritton got a look at Hardin's handiwork he was so impressed he passed the word along to other officers. The idea caught on. Two wardens began modification work on their jeeps the next week; a week later still another reconverted his. Now all the officers with state-owned vehicles plan to follow suit.

Albritton is all for it. He thinks the rolling lodges help morale.

"Officers on overnight patrol can sleep better and eat better," he explains, "and one dry, well-fed man in the woods is worth two who are so uncomfortable they'd rather be anywhere else."



Ralph Cooksey and Gene Campbell examine bullet hole in tail of patrol plane.

New Junior Biologist Named By Commission

Jefferson Fuller, formerly of Oklahoma, has been appointed a junior fisheries biologist for the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, it has been announced. He has been placed in charge of the current Lake Okeechobee survey.

Fuller, who is 26, received a B.S. degree in biological science from Oklahoma A. & M. College last year. The biologist began his college education in 1940 at the University of Oklahoma. His education was interrupted by three and one-half years' service in the Air Corps in World War II.

He flew on 35 bombing missions as a gunner, and was awarded the D.F.C., Air Medal with four clusters and the Presidential unit citation with one cluster.

MARSH BIRDS DIE

Approximately two-thirds of the marsh hens, gulls and other salt water birds in Nassau County have died mysteriously in the marshes here recently it is reported by Warden Carl T. Jones.

This estimate has been arrived at through personal observations and the result of questioning the local populace, the warden said. Bird eggs, covered with a gummy substance which Jones identified as grease, have been found floating in the marsh. Further investigation is being made.

Illegal Netters Fire On Commission Plane

The Lake Okeechobee fishing dispute flared anew recently when a bullet was fired through a wildlife officers' plane by one of a group of net fishermen who were operating on the lake, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission officials revealed.

The shooting occurred during a raid on an illegal seining crew by wildlife officers of Districts One and Four.

Flying Wildlife Officer Gene Campbell was directing the raiding motorboat from his plane, and as he banked his craft to circle the commercial men, one of the crew fired a pistol bullet through the tail of the plane, the pilot stated.

Campbell said he could identify the seining crew but not the man who shot at him.

Immediate action was taken by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. A special investigator was appointed to look into the incident.

This was followed by an announcement that four high speed motorboats would begin patrolling the lake 24 hours a day in addition to aircraft patrol.

A 140-pound doe deer committed suicide recently when it ran into the front end of a moving car driven by Curry J. Bassett and D. A. Hatcher of Tallahassee. The meat was turned over by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission for use in a state institution.

Florida Duck Season Padded by Opening Closed Hunting Days

Following refusal of the U. S. Department of Interior to allow Florida a lengthened duck season and an enlargement of bag limits, the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has found a way to grant Florida hunters a longer shooting season.

The commission will add seven days to the duck, goose and coot open season by opening closed hunting days to migratory bird hunters during the season set by the U. S. Department of Interior.

Hunters will be permitted to shoot ducks, geese and coot every day from Dec. 10 to Jan. 8 under the new commission ruling. Under federal regulations, ducks, geese and coot may be taken from one-half hour before sunrise until an hour before sunset; however, on opening day they may not be hunted prior to 12 noon.

According to federal regulations, four ducks can be bagged in a day. The goose limit is one a day.

Because the Department of Interior cut the dove season from 60 to 45 days, the commission's action will also apply to this bird. The decision will give dove-hunters 10 additional days shooting.

Monday and Tuesdays will continue to be closed to the taking of domestic game in all districts but the Third, where hunting of quail and squirrel is permitted every day.



Two and a half-year-old Richard stands proudly beside the seven-pound, eight-ounce large mouth bass caught by his "pop," Harold H. Snow, of Tallahassee. Casting near the lower bridge of the Wakulla River August 12, Snow hooked the fish on a Hawaiian Wiggler.

ARMISTICE . . .

(Continued from Page 14)

A study of Albritton's record reveals why he holds the full respect of the cattlemen in general.

During his colorful career he has "turned up the toes" of at least six notorious cattle rustlers. During two terms as DeSoto county sheriff, 1936-44, he was considered a very bitter pill, indeed, where cow thieves were concerned.

When Albritton lays the Webb Plan before cattlemen he has a very sensible and down-to-earth explanation of how it will benefit them. A man who kills a deer out of season, Albritton points out, will "kill any damn thing." He'll slaughter yearlings, cut fences to get the butchered animal off the ranch, and steal timber. Albritton convinces ranchers such lawlessness will be stopped once the Webb Plan is given a fair chance.

Today, scarcely anyone doubts the ultimate success of the plan. It is offering added law enforcement to the tormented ranchers, and eventually it can open up story-book hunting grounds which for years have been surrounded with NO HUNTING signs. What's more important, it already has succeeded in getting the ranchers and sportsmen on a common meeting ground, and that accomplishment alone is tops in any man's language. From here on out it is up to the sportsmen to prove that they can serve in a dual role of hunter and gentleman!

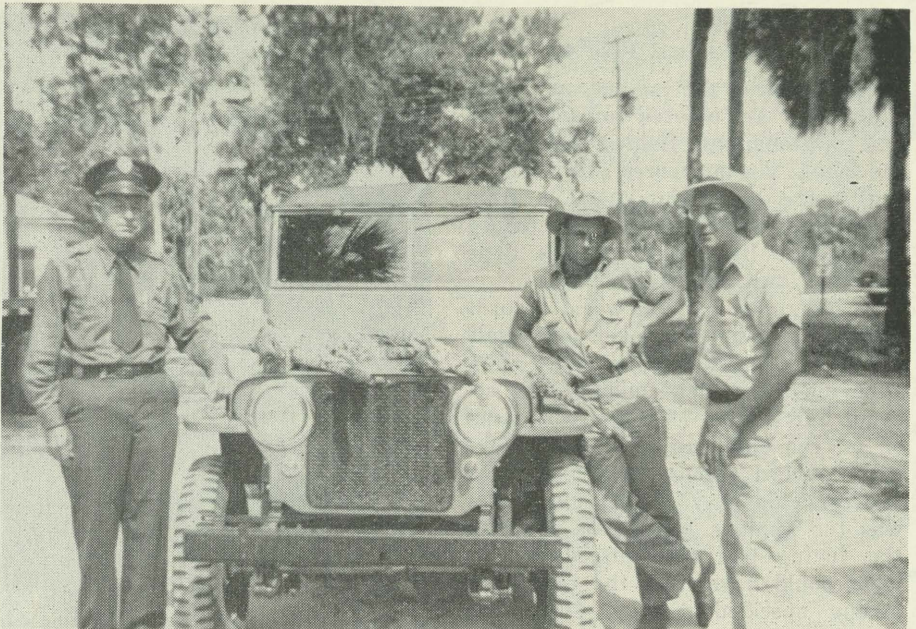
Fisheries Biologist Quits To Take Government Post

Fisheries Biologist Lynn Hutchins, in charge of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's St. Johns River fisheries survey, has resigned to accept a position with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Norman, Oklahoma.

C. E. Hall, the commission's assistant chief fisheries biologist, will be placed in charge of the St. Johns' project until another biologist has been appointed to succeed Hutchins.

OUT-OF-STATE ANGLERS INCREASE

Out-of-state fishing licenses were purchased by visitors from 12 states and the District of Columbia during the month of July according to John C. Brown, in charge of the license bureau in the county. Sales of fresh water fishing licenses for the month totaled 2,200.



Wildlife Officer Turner and Leon and Edwin Rennolds of LaBelle display the results of a night's bobcat hunt. The hunters have taken more than 50 cats this season.

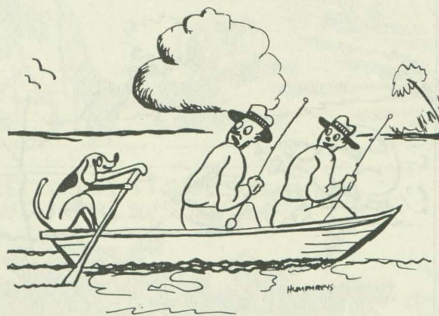
Institute Lauds Bird Regulations for 1948-49

The 1948 migratory bird regulations, approved by President Truman and released by the Department of Interior, reflect better management of waterfowl resources, the Wildlife Management Institute thinks.

In furthering its policy of setting the regulations by flyways, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has made allowances for varying conditions in the different sections of the country, says the Institute.

The United States is divided into four flyways: Atlantic, Mississippi, Central and Pacific. States in the Atlantic Flyway, of which Florida is one, were offered a choice of a straight 30-day season or two seasons, each of 12 days duration.

According to the institute, this year's regulations are based on the most intensive and extensive survey of wintering and breeding grounds in history.



"He isn't much good for hunting, but he sure can handle a boat."

State Men Break Up Gator Poaching Ring

One of the most active alligator poaching rings in the history of this area was broken recently by wildlife officers in Palm Beach county following a four-day chase through the Everglades.

The chase ended in a land-air raid on the two glades camps of the poachers. Three Fort Lauderdale men were captured in the raid, and a quantity of venison and 70 alligator hides were confiscated by wildlife officers.

The captured men, W. J. Harris, Albert Rode and Daniel Rode, were each fined \$100 for illegal possession of venison during closed season in Palm Beach county. They were placed under bond in Broward county for illegal possession of alligator hides.

Wildlife officers, led by Asst. Chief L. E. Bunnell of the Fourth District, used three planes and two swamp buggies in the round-up. I. R. Giddens, I. H. Schwartz, P. Johnson and William Newton manned the swamp buggies; George Copper was stationed as a road guard, and L. R. Harvey was in charge of plane reconnaissance.

The haul of alligator hides, the largest in the recollection of local authorities, was turned over to the Game and Fish Commission for sale.

The operation was an excellent example of the effectiveness of combined land-air game law enforcement, wildlife officers said.

I. D. Burnseed, Baker County's champion panther killer, bettered his record recently when he shot one that was so heavy he had to drag it away with a tractor.

TSALA APOPKA

(Continued from Page 4)

Withlacoochee, the shiner and lake chubsucker are offered for sale at all bait stations and fishing camps on the lakes. The preferred size, according to the boys who know, is from four to six inches long, their theory being that little bait catches little fish; big bait, big fish.

Although no official world records have been set or broken on Tsala Apopka, local newspaper files show a bevy of very near misses. One account tells of two 19-pound bass landed on the chain in one season. The world record stands at 22 pounds, 4 ounces. This past spring one angler was too anxious to get his catch to the frying pan and missed out on what could have been the top honor among speckled perch fishermen. Weighing his crappie in at just a fraction over four pounds the sportsman failed to have the weight notarized thereby disqualifying his entry into any official logbook.

The many types of connected and inaccessible lakes in the area are so ideal to the production of fish life that John F. Dequine, chief fisheries biologist of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has called the chain "the least exploited and potentially the most productive area of fishing water in the state." This fish-producing potential is so high that it has induced dozens of wealthy sportsmen to erect little short of palatial fishing lodges on its banks.

Accommodations for average Joe Angler, though, can still be found in just about any form he likes. There are numerous fishing camps that offer "everything"—that is, furnished cabins, meals if you don't like to do your own cooking, guides, boats, bait and tackle. For those that prefer more of the city life, Floral City, Inverness and Hernando have hotels, rooming houses and trailer parking. All are less than a five minute drive to choice fishing spots or camps where boats, guides and bait can be secured.

Regardless of how you get to Tsala Apopka or how you plan to live when you get there, don't forget to bring that cast iron skillet and the makings for hush puppies. It's a cinch that you are going to have the opportunity to use them to their best advantage.

A party of 12 men from Pensacola recently captured a 1,000-pound sea turtle while fishing on Santa Rosa Island, 10 miles east of Pensacola Beach.



Baiting with live shiners and fishing during a rain storm late in the evening netted these two fishermen, L. A. Atkinson and E. S. Singletary, six black beauties that weighed 22 pounds.

August Convictions Double July Figure

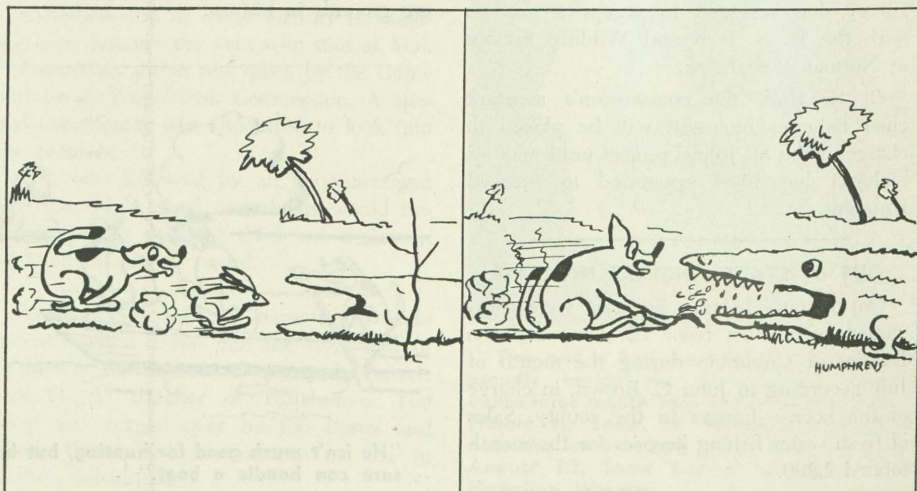
Court convictions for violations of state game and fresh water fish laws numbered 275 last month, exceeding July's convictions by 170.

Heading the list were convictions for fishing without a license, which accounted for 51 per cent of the total. Possession of undersized fish was second with 11 per cent. Exceeding the bag limit of fish accounted for 9.6 per cent.

Violations of sixteen other game and fish laws accounted for the remaining 29.4 per cent of the total.

There were 88 violations in the Third District; 58 in the First; 54 in the Fifth; 53 in the Second, and 22 in the Fourth.

BERTRAM



Commission Sets Up Plans for Statewide Short-wave Network

A proposed state-wide communications system for the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will be completed in eight months, according to B. Atwell Everitt, newly appointed communications chief.

Sites for 25 automatic and manual relay stations have been established throughout the state. Installation of radio antennas on these sites will begin shortly, Everitt announced.

The network of stations will facilitate communication between planes, and vehicles on land and water. One hundred mobile high frequency AFM units have been purchased by the commission for installation in these vehicles.

Establishment of this radio system is a major step in the direction of better wildlife law enforcement. Law violators will now be faced with co-ordinated land, water, and air enforcement.

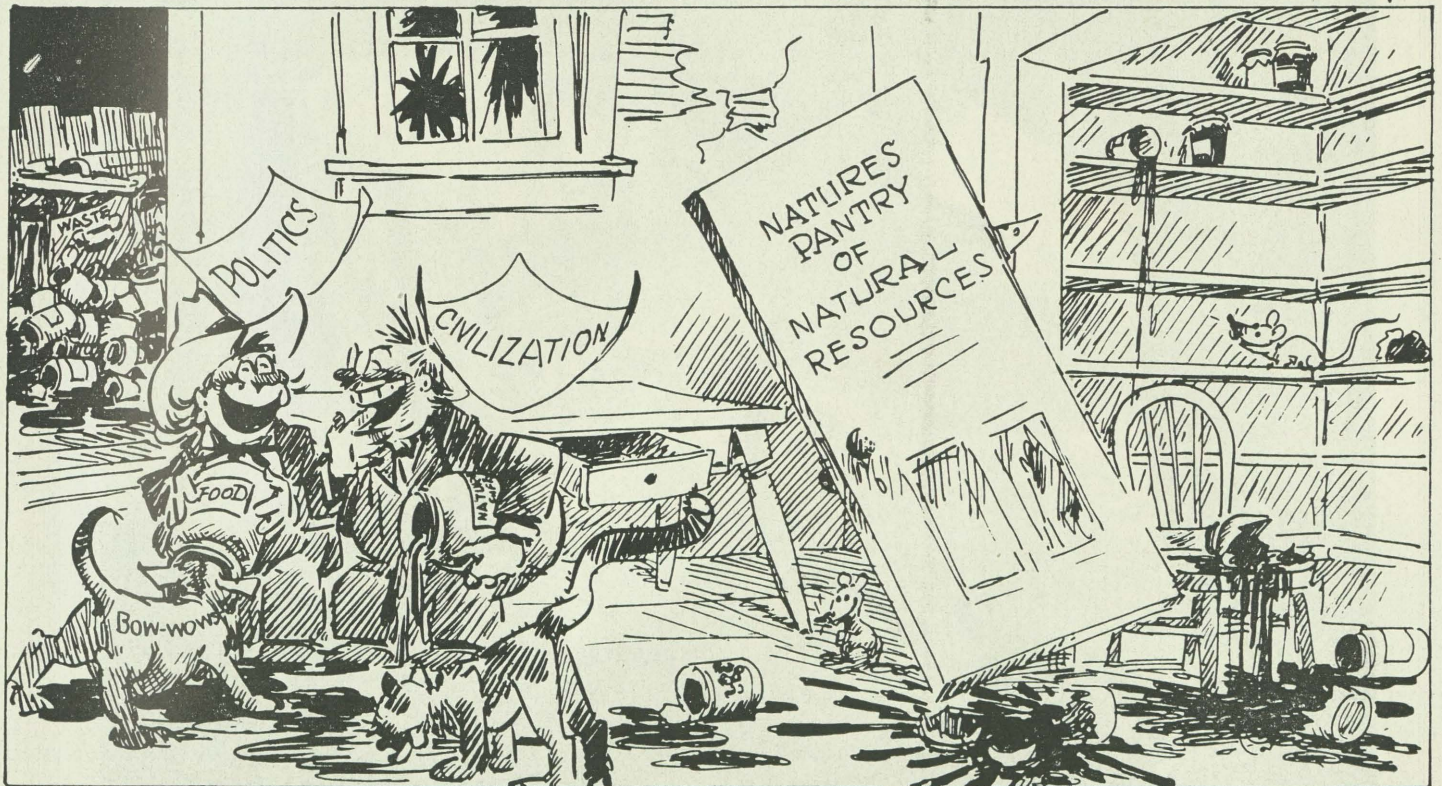
Here is an example of how the new set-up will work: A wildlife officer flying over a section of practically inaccessible swamp may spot a swamp buggy manned by alligator poachers. Using his radio, he can alert land and water borne wildlife officers in a 100-mile area. The wildlife officers, directed by the scout plane would converge on the poachers from all directions. Highways and roads could be blocked by jeeps and trucks, and officers in air boats and swamp buggies would then move in for the capture, guided from the air.

Officials of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission believe the communications network is one of the greatest conservation and wildlife law enforcement measures undertaken in the history of the commission.

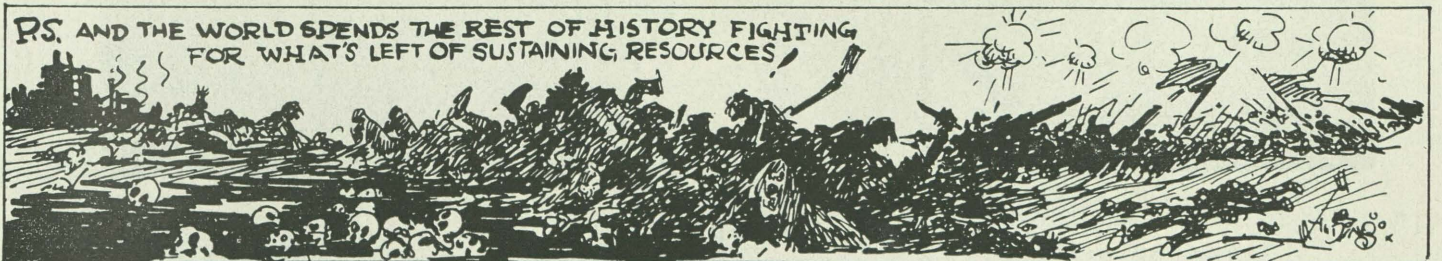
by HUMPHREYS



MOTHER NATURE SPENT A MILLION YEARS PUTTING UP PRESERVES FOR US—NOW LOOK AT 'EM!



AND THE WORLD SPENDS THE REST OF HISTORY FIGHTING FOR WHAT'S LEFT OF SUSTAINING RESOURCES!



Time To Take An Inventory of Our Pantry

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